GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
DECREASE IN THE BIRTH OF FEMALE CHILDEN
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an alarming decrease in the number of female child births and their survival in many States;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps undertaken by the Government to stop such a disturbing trend?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 326 FOR 21ST MARCH, 2007

(a) & (b) Sex ratio in India has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991. The sex ratio has since gone up to 933 in 2001. In contrast, the child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. The Census 2001 figures further reveal that the child sex ratio is comparatively lower in the affluent regions, i.e., Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883) and Himachal Pradesh (896). State/UT wise Sex ratio and Child Sex ratio as per 1991 and 2001 Census is annexed.

(c) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has undertaken a number of initiatives for strict implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act as well as for creating awareness on the issue among the stakeholders and general public.

National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) having representatives of Department of Women & Child Development, National Commission for Women, Indian Council for Medical Research as members, undertakes periodical visits to the districts with low child sex ratio (0-6 years) to oversee the implementation of the Act at ground level. The National Support and Monitoring Cell has been constituted as a mechanism to help Appropriate Authorities in apprehending actual wrong doer who are committing female foeticide/abetting female foeticide. The Government of India undertook training of trainers from State Judicial Academies at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. A number of activities to create awareness on the issue are being undertaken. The initiatives include meeting with the organizations working against sex selection, involvement of the medical professionals, religious leaders to spread the message, requesting police training academies and schools to include the issues in curriculum of their training, telecasting of PNDT spots on private satellite channels and Doordarshan, and involvement of elected representatives etc. A 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls has been launched.

District Magistrates have also been requested to regularly review the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act alongwith other programmes in their district.